A Summary of
Emergency Response Plans for Avian Influenza/Pandemic Influenza
Michigan Departments of
Agriculture, Community Health and Natural Resources
and USDA Wildlife Services

2-14-06

Michigan governmental agencies, federal, university, and industry partners are working together to prevent, prepare, and if necessary, respond, and recover from a novel influenza outbreak having the potential to affect humans and/or animals. The surveillance and management roles and responsibilities of each agency have been identified for a unified approach that considers humans, domestic animals, and wildlife. Recently, these partners assembled the Michigan Inter Agency Avian Influenza Work Group to ensure that these efforts were managed with an interdepartmental perspective.

The State of Michigan, Department of Community Health has had a *Pandemic Influenza Plan* in place since 2002. The 2005 version is now part of the *All Hazards Response Plan*, created in 2004 and finalized in 2005.

The *Pandemic Influenza Plan* has been available to Local Health Department planning and emergency preparedness partners on the Health Alert Network (or "HAN")—a statewide disease alert system for health care providers and public health leaders. The latest version of the Pandemic Flu plan was posted on the HAN in early January, 2006.

We continue to update our plans as new information and resources become available. And we carry out regular preparedness exercises and revise our plans as needed based on the results of those exercises.

The State has also made pandemic influenza information available to the public though the website: www.mdch.gov/influenza and to local public health and health care partners through the Health Alert Network.

Michigan has among the finest public health and animal diagnostic laboratories in the country. The labs continually diagnose illnesses by utilizing the latest techniques to detect microbes.

The State's ongoing preparedness efforts related to chemical and biological threats have no doubt contributed to preparedness for the emergence of new diseases transmitted from animals to humans. The following information briefly explains each department's role in avian influenza pandemic flu planning.

STATE PLANS
The Michigan Department of Community Health, All Hazards Response Plan, developed and maintained as required by Act 390, PA of 1976 and as referenced in the Michigan Emergency Management Plan, is approved and current. MDCH staff and contractors

follow the systems, assignments, protocols, and procedures contained in the plan when responding to disasters, emergencies or providing supplemental relief assistance in support of local governments and agencies.

The Michigan Emergency Avian Disease Manual was developed through consultation, coordination, and agreement with Michigan's poultry industry (Michigan Allied Poultry Industries, Inc.), the State Veterinarian's Office of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) Area Veterinarian-In-Charge (AVIC) and Michigan State University (MSU). In the event of an emergency avian disease, implementation of all or part of this plan will be made at the discretion of the State Veterinarian's or USDA/APHIS AVIC Office with consultation and coordination with Michigan's poultry industry. This manual also serves as a guide to prevent the spread of infectious avian diseases as well as to assist in the development of appropriate biosecurity plans in order to prevent such an occurrence.

The DNR Avian Influenza Response Plan is divided into two categories: Surveillance and Response. Early detection and the rapid, accurate diagnosis of disease set the stage for response activities to follow. These are accomplished by surveillance of wild populations to detect sick or dead birds through diagnostic testing. Once surveillance has provided a basic understanding of the distribution of the disease and its magnitude, specific response activities can be formulated. These are used to control the spread of disease, prevent exposure of susceptible but as yet unexposed hosts, and, where possible and desirable, eradicate the disease.

The State of Michigan Risk Communication Plan for H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza can also be broadly divided into two categories: Surveillance and Response. Communications and education activities will change tone and direction depending on circumstance, but are active, ongoing functions related to both surveillance and response modes. Most media accounts work to draw basic public understanding of the disease by linking it with Pandemic Influenza. Continual communication and education activities, directed at lawmakers, key constituency groups, the media, and the general public will raise public awareness of AI, increase understanding of the disease, and help ensure broad-based public support in the event that the state moves from a surveillance mode to a response mode.

(For full emergency response plans see Michigan AI Emergency Response Plans binder or visit http://www.Michigan.gov/emergingdiseases)

FEDERAL PLANS
The ability to efficiently control the spread of a highly infectious, exotic disease such as Asian H5N1, is dependent upon the capacity to rapidly detect the pathogen if introduced. For this reason, a National Early Detection System for Asian H5N1 in Wild Migratory Birds is not only prudent, it is necessary. Effective implementation of this National Detection System will require decentralized planning and execution at regional and state levels, combined with centralized coordination to ensure national level analysis of

surveillance data for risk assessment. It also involves a partnership between public and private interests and includes efforts by Federal, State, and local governments as well as nongovernmental organizations, universities, and other interest groups.

Coordinating groups such as the four Flyway Councils already exist to deal with issues related to migratory bird management on a broad geographic scale. These Councils include representation from each of the States in their respective bird flyways as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Therefore, the planning and execution of local and regional Asian H5N1 early detection efforts will best be accomplished by the States in collaboration with Federal agencies. States and flyways are exposed to varying degrees of threat from Asian H5N1. Each has unique circumstances that will shape the direction and intensity of its early detection efforts. Local USDA offices, both Veterinary Services (VS) and Wildlife Services (WS) will provide support, surveillance and response services at infected farms.

Consequently, gaps among regional programs may emerge over time. Centralized coordination will evaluate the effectiveness of state and regional efforts, allowing for prioritization of available federal resources.

Integration of this National Early Detection System with similar influenza surveillance systems in other species (e.g., domestic, feral, zoo) as well as humans will also require centralized coordination. Surveillance data from all of these systems will be incorporated into national risk assessments, and preparedness and response planning efforts.

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CONTACTS:
Michigan Department of Community Health
Dr. Eden Wells, Medical Specialist, Bureau of Epidemiology   (517) 335-8165
Orlene Christie, Legislative Liaison   (517) 373-6440

Michigan Department of Agriculture
Dr. Steven Halstead, State Veterinarian   (517) 373-8118
Liesl Clark, Legislative Liaison   (517) 335-2005

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Dr. Steve Schmitt, Wildlife Veterinarian in Charge   (517) 336-5040
Rodney Stokes, Legislative Liaison   (517) 373-0023

USDA Wildlife Services
Peter H. Butchko, State Director   (517) 336-1928